

Comments on Swinomish TJWQP proposal

Lisa Chang to twaters

12/05/2011 10:48 AM

Hi Tiffany,

Here are our comments on the Swinomish TJWQP proposal. Apologies for the lateness! Reviewer 1 (me) comments are attached; Reviewer 2 comments are cut and pasted below. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you!

Lisa

Reviewer 2 comments:

- I don't see a mention of a QAPP, but if they aren't collecting this data under a QAPP they will need to develop one before they collect any additional data.
- If one of the objectives of this grant is tech. transfer to the Tribes, I don't see very much of it in the application. The only tech. transfer that I see in the application, is that the Tribes help collect the data, but then USGS does all of the analysis and reporting.
- One of the proposed uses of the data is listing water on Washington's 303d list. The State has specific procedures that must be followed for data to be used in the 303d listing process and I'm not sure that the data collected under this application would meet those requirements.
- The data is available on the web, but does it also go into STORET, EIM or some other long term data management/storage system?



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Tribe/Proposal: Swinomish TJWQP proposal

The proposal seeks funding for 62% of the Tribal Journey Coordinator's position. The Coordinator responsibilities include program management, coordination, data collection and analysis, and reporting and outreach. I have two main comments.

1. Coordinator's role/tasks needs more detail. The specific Coordinator tasks should be laid out in more detail. What tasks will this funding cover? Regular meetings and phone calls with TJWQP participants (e.g., USGS, canoe families, participating Tribes and First Nations)? When, and with whom, will these occur (doesn't have to be exact; just a basic framework)? The specific work needs to be laid out so that as time progresses it is possible to track whether the products/outputs of this funding are being produced in a timely way.

- What does "program management" entail – does it include securing and managing funding for the overall project? Based on the 4 previous years of experience, does the Coordinator have a basic calendar of needed preparation for the TJWQP (e.g., "need to contact so-and-so by such-and-such date," "need to reserve XYZ by such-and-such date," "need to send out XYZ by such-and-such date," "draft/review report sections by such-and-such date," etc.)? If so, that should be used to describe what specific duties the Coordinator will perform under this funding.
- For the Coordinator role, what does "data collection and analysis" (Task 1 of the timeline) include? Does this include travelling to/from the site of instruments that are deployed for longer periods of time and downloading data? Does this include actually participating in data-gathering work during the Canoe Journey? Why does the data gathering portion extend from January through August in the timeline? If this task is not part of the Coordinator's role, it should be noted in the timeline that this task is included for informational purposes only, and is not part of the Coordinator's role.
- Similarly, for the Coordinator role, what does "data analysis and reporting" (Task 2 of the timeline) include? How is this work split up between USGS and the Coordinator? Again, if this is not part of his role, the timeline should make this clear.

2. Program development/strategic planning. After 4 years of experience, I am wondering if it would make sense to think about the future direction/next phase of the TJWQP, taking it to a new level. This could be done by adding a development or strategic planning task to the workplan. I can think of 2 areas that could benefit from strategic planning.

- Salish Sea monitoring data. The program has been collecting large amounts of water quality data for 4 years, and brings together extremely unique capabilities, assets, and scope/scale. However, it is not clear to me whether the water quality monitoring aspect of TJWQP is living up to its potential and whether a convincing case has been built that as a scientific monitoring effort, the TJWQP rises above other monitoring proposals that funding agencies see in terms of scientific value and importance. For example, after 4 years of data collection, it does not appear

that significant scientific publications have been produced from the work (the USGS technical reports are great documentation, but journal articles which tell a significant scientific story from rigorous analysis of the data would be very meaningful); and it is not clear whether the data have been used to inform regulatory or policy decisions or processes (e.g., use of the data to inform the State 303(d) process; and use of the data to inform other policy decision; are mentioned in the proposal, but it is not clear to what extent this has actually happened). I urge the applicant to do some strategic planning – perhaps conferring with others, such as Ecology, NWIFC, other organizations knowledgeable about the Salish Sea – to develop a clear vision for the future of the TJWQP. This could be done by allocating resources within this workplan for a strategic planning task.

- Promoting stewardship. The proposal mentions how the activities of the TJWQP promote awareness and stewardship of the Salish Sea. This is a very important, valuable aspect of the TJWQP. Here also I am wondering if it is time to think about the next stage of development of this aspect of the TJWQP? I do not know to what extent the stewardship dimension of the TJWQP is currently structured/designed, but would it make sense to invest resources into further developing this aspect of the TJWQP? For example, if this is not already being done, for students participating in the program, is it possible to provide any kind of educational/field credit, or to develop the program so that educational/field credit could be offered? Also, as another example, I have heard that in the Chesapeake Bay area, there are leadership/stewardship courses for students - <http://www.cbf.org/SLCourses> - might there be models out there for further developing the stewardship training aspect of the TJWQP? Perhaps these ideas are not a direction the applicant or its partners wish to pursue, but I believe it is important to at least consider how the TJWQP could be further developed to be of greatest value and impact to the Salish Sea ecosystem, or if future years are intended to remain unchanged from the past.